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File: TDBD

Nov 1, 1991

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DISCLOSURE TITLE: Command Language for an IBM-X.400 Gateway.

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## DISCLOSURE TEXT:

- The International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT) X.400 Recommendations for Message Handling Systems (MHS) define a world-wide standard for electronic mail interchange. To enable users of current systems based on proprietary architectures to exchange messages with X.400 compatible systems, many vendors offer some form of gateway facility which performs a bidirectional conversion between the native system protocols and data streams and those defined by X.400. An inherent limitation of protocol conversions is that they are rarely without loss. The extent of the functional degradation depends on the specific semantic and syntactic mismatches between the respective architectures and protocols. - This article considers such a gateway solution, whose function is to map X.400 addresses, protocols and encoded information types to/ from those supported by IBM's Document Interchange Architecture (DIA) and SNA Distribution Services (SNADS), as implemented by current IBM products. It describes a simple command language technique to enable an originating IBM DIA user to cause the generation of certain P2 header elements which would not otherwise be possible by mapping from DIA/SNADS protocols. (P2 denotes the X.400 Interpersonal Message content type and associated procedures, as defined in Recommendation X.420) X.400 defines a set of capabilities which must be made available to all originating users in order to conform to the requirements of the X.400 Interpersonal Messaging (IPM) service. Many of these can be mapped by the gateway from analogous functions in DIA/SNADS. However, there are several required user facilities which have no counterpart in IBM DIA/SNADS products, as well as others which, although non-mandatory, are nonetheless useful and desirable. To allow an originating DIA end user to invoke these X.400 facilities, the following simple command language technique is used: The sending IBM office system user can use the DIA "message" operand (a 256-character maximum textual field) to convey special "dot" commands to the gateway, which interprets them and generates the corresponding P2 protocol elements in the outgoing X.400 message. In addition, the user can also use the DIA message operand to convey additional text (e.g., a "buckslip") to be distributed along with the document. The gateway will strip out any commands it recognizes from the DIA message operand. The remaining text (if any) is sent as a separate body part at the front of the body of the X.400 message. - The command language is defined as a set of tagged values. The tag introducer is a period. The value is

enclosed in parenthesis, and consists of a list of values, delimited by semicolons. Blanks may be freely inserted, except between the period and the tag. A restriction is that a value may not contain semicolons or unmatched parenthesis, or it will not be correctly parsed. (Note: other command language formats could also be defined.) The following four commands have been defined: Command P2 protocol element .ref (IPMessageID) inReplyTo IPMessageID .expires(Time) expiryDate Time .importance (Importance) importance .pp(DUN;DUN...) authorizingUsers where: - IPMessageID is the ID of the message to which this message is a reply. - - Time is the date and time in the form YYMMDDhhmmss. The gateway translates this local time to UTC time (Universal Coordinated Time), obtaining the GMT (Generalized Mean Time) offset from a gateway configuration parameter. - - Importance is one of the text strings "low" "medium" or "high", or any abbreviation. Case is ignored. - - DUN is the SNADS Distribution User Name of either an IBM office systems user or an "alias" for an X.400 user. The gateway translates this DUN to an X.400 O/R (Originator/Recipient) descriptor, using an "alias" directory for IBM <-> X.400 name mapping. - The command language could be extended, if desired, to cover additional X.400 user facilities. Another possible usage could be as a means for communicating with the gateway for registering and maintaining entries in the gateway's alias directory, e.g., if the gateway is located in a system remote from the end user.

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**Database:**

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 EPO Abstracts Database  
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 IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

**Term:**

**Display:**  Documents in Display Format:  Starting with Number

**Generate:**  Hit List  Hit Count  Side by Side  Image

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**[Search] [Clear] [Interrupt]**

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### Search History

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<u>Set Name</u>	<u>Query</u>	<u>Hit Count</u>	<u>Set Name</u>
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<u>L51</u>	l43 and minimun near (period or time)	0	<u>L51</u>
<u>L50</u>	l44 and minimun near (period or time)	0	<u>L50</u>
<u>L49</u>	l46 and minimun near (period or time)	0	<u>L49</u>
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